

Public Issues Report 4th Quarter 2008

Public File 2008 – 4th Quarter

News at

6:01am	7:01	8:01
6:15	7:15	8:15
6:31	7:31	8:31
6:45	7:45	8:45

October 1

The FDA just passed a new guideline called the "cool law." "Cool" stands for country of origin label and now grocery chains are required to use them on a number of food items... including meats, fish, shellfish, fresh and frozen fruits, veggies and nuts.

"The Insurance for Highway Safety Institute" says that 13 seats don't put children in the best position to be protected during a crash.

October 2

An environmental official in Australia says cattle and sheep are to blame for 67 percent of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions

"Yum Brands," the parent company of KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut is making it easier for us to find the nutritional value of the food in its restaurants.

October 3

In a move to woo buyers sidelined by the credit crunch, Toyota is offering zero percent financing on 11 different models

Republican presidential candidate John McCain is giving up on winning Michigan as his peeps try to regroup due to this economic crisis.

Officials are making a new push to warn moms and dads about the dangers of sudden infant death syndrome... or SIDS.

October 6

President Bush signed the 700 billion dollar bailout plan Friday, capping off two weeks of havoc on Wall Street and Capitol Hill.

American Airlines announced that it will start breaking the cost of a trip into several smaller fees

October 7

New York Senator Charles Schumer says he's worried the credit crunch will lead to higher interest rates that will keep many families from qualifying for student loans.

Three former CEO's of AIG will answer to a house panel that's investigating the bailout today.

October 8

The Congressional Budget Office says as the stock markets slides, its pulling the value of retirement plans down with it.

Drug makers are working on putting warning labels on meds to remind parents and they say they're also adding a warning not to give children antihistamines to make them sleepy.

Some card company's are lowering user's limits and some by thousands of dollars! And technically they can adjust rates as they please and they don't "have" to warn you about it.

October 9

The percentage of minorities with college degrees isn't proportionate to the total number of minorities in the country.

A new report from the American Psychological Association shows 84 percent of women are stressed out about the economy but only 75 percent of men are.

October 10

The National Women's Health Resource Center found about 75 percent of women with a bun in the oven, don't know what they should do when it comes to the flu.

Hasbro is recalling its *Nerf-n-Strike* toy and say a kid's skin can get stuck in the plunger and that could hurt the face, neck, or chest.

October 13

One in eight people with advanced cancer are turning down care because it costs too much and 25 percent of cancer patients or their families say they have used up all or most of their life savings to pay for treatment.

The national debt is now 10.2 trillion dollars and the national debt clock just can't keep up and runs out of digits.

October 14

The national restaurant association says beef and veal costs have gone up about 19 percent, with processed chicken up about 3 and a half percent...better enjoy that "dollar" menu while you can!

House Republicans and Democrats have their eyes on main street, agreeing we need a second stimulus bill... but they're butting heads over "how" it should be divvied up.

October 15

A new study says tap water is purer than bottled water.

According to a new study from the "archives of neurology," the more alcohol you drink, the smaller your brain gets... which can affect your thinking and memory.

October 16

Top executives from AIG were partying like a rock star when they racked up an 86-thousand dollar tab while hunting in England.

Nissan is recalling more than 200-thousand vehicles, including certain models of the Altima, Infiniti, Murano and Rogue. They say it needs to fix a sensor system that could affect the passenger side air bag.

October 17

A new study out of California says kids who get into drugs or alcohol before they turn 15 years old are more likely to get STD's, drop out of school, or be convicted of a crime.

Law makers in New Jersey made it mandatory for kids to get flu shots if they want to go to pre-schools and day-care.

October 20

Boy Scouts Associations are allowing condoms to be handed out if they feel the need to.

The Associated Press obtained records showing Freddie Mac secretly paid a Republican consulting firm 2-million bucks to kill a bill that would have regulated and trimmed the mortgage finance giant and its sister, Fannie Mae, three years before the Feds took control of the two companies.

October 21

The nation's homeless population is on the rise... especially in 12 of the biggest cities like Atlanta, and Phoenix with more families with children losing their homes.

Word has it...President Bush is open to another economic stimulus package.

USA Today reports that airlines are planning to cut about 3-thousand flights a day during the upcoming Thanksgiving travel season.

Delta Enterprises says that it is recalling about one point six million cribs that were sold between 1995 and 2005...after two infants died. This is one of the largest infant crib recalls in U.S. history.

October 22

The FBI says at least 30 letters containing suspicious powder have been mailed to chase banks and federal banking regulators' offices in nine cities

K-mart is running national ads reminding holiday shoppers about the holiday layaway program.

Investigators say it would take 13 years for u-s inspectors to visit each of the more than 32-hundred plants overseas that make meds for the U.S.

October 23

The latest "home report" shows the number of foreclosures across the country grew 71-percent compared to this time last year.

Food allergies are affecting about three million kids in this country.

A federal health panel is recommending the vaccine specifically for adult smokers younger than 65. It protects against bacteria that causes pneumonia, meningitis and other illness.

October 24

50 students at Normandy High School near St. Louis are being tested after someone infected with the HIV disease warned health officials.

October 27

4,188 U.S. military men and women have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003.

People who have the AIDS virus should start drug treatments "sooner" than current guidelines recommend.

October 28

Doctors say they hope to start implanting a completely artificial heart into humans starting in 2011.

A new study says one out of every 20 kids has a common eye problem called convergence insufficiency or "CI"

October 29

The University of Minnesota is number one in the Guinness book of world records in the category of flu shots, where 11,538 recently got pricked.

TSA says they are lifting the liquid ban.

October 30

The Governor of Nebraska says he's calling lawmakers back to the drawing board to fix a Safe Haven Law.

The FCC says it's worried that cable companies will raise rates and switch channels to more expensive packages.

October 31

American Express says it's cutting seven-thousand jobs. You know things are getting bad when the credit card companies are trimming the workforce.

A new report from First American Core Logic says one of every five homeowners owes more on their homes than they are worth and the so-called "underwater" homeowners are mainly in six states: Nevada, Michigan, Florida, California, Arizona, and Georgia.

November 3

A federal judge ruled that the Bush Administration must give up court documents related to feds wiretapping domestic communications without a warrant after the September 11 attacks.

A new rand study shows kids who constantly watch t-v shows packed with sex are more likely to get knocked up or get someone knocked up.

A scientific panel has issued a blistering report against the Food and Drug Administration, saying the agency ignored important evidence in reassuring consumers about the safety of the controversial chemical Bisphenol-A.

New York Times reveals that women pay much more than men of the same age for individual insurance policies providing the same coverage.

November 4

5 percent of eligible voters are expected to cast their ballots in this election, the highest since 1908.

British researchers say women with diabetes who eat more than one serving of fish each week will lower their chances of having kidney disease. They think the key nutrients in fish may affect kidney function and improve blood glucose levels.

November 5

Researchers at New York University say kids who live with adult smokers are more likely to be underfed and undernourished.

November 6

Doctors say, overall, women who had a history of migraines had a 30 percent lower risk of breast cancer compared to women who did not have a history of the headaches.

Delta airlines say it will charge 15 bucks for your first checked bag 25 bucks for a second bag starting December 5th.

November 7

Food prices are expected to rise next year because of higher feed costs for chickens, hogs and cattle.

New study reveals people keep weird things in their trunk such as 13 ft trampoline, hundreds of bags of mints, stag's skull complete with antlers.

Officials say tainted dry dog and cat food contaminated with salmonella has made at least 79 "people" across the country very sick just by touching it including several kids.

November 10

Vitamins C and E do not prevent heart disease.

As the economy tanks and mortgage-related losses go up, a lot of credit card companies are raising their interest rates even if we don't miss a payment or go over the limit.

November 11

Travel is down about 10 percent and in January the airlines could cutback their flights even more.

Continental and Southwest are already hinting toward "grounding" another five percent of its flights.

The USDA says the super citrus or mandarin oranges are a natural decongestant that fights cold and allergy symptoms better than similar fruits.

November 12

Since the elections, gun buyers across the country have been flocking to gun stores to stock up on assault rifles, handguns and ammunition.

Researchers looked at the hearts of 70 kids who were about 13 years old proving childhood obesity lays the groundwork for heart disease later in life.

November 13

More than 50% of the U.S. peeps surveyed said they can't afford to see a doctor or fill their prescription.

November 14

Lawmakers in Nebraska will start a special session to amend the state's Safe Haven Law.

The big three automakers are keeping their fingers crossed that lawmakers can come together to bail them out.

November 17

College presidents' salary rises.

The "American Journal of Public Health" says that states with the taxes have seen big drops in liver disease, oral and breast cancer.

The more TV you watch, the more unhappy you may be.

November 18

There's now a HPV Vaccine for Men.

People across the country are putting down their credit cards this holiday season.

November 19

General Electric recalls about 244 thousand wall ovens.

Toyota says it would stop production at all of its assembly, transmission and engine factories in the US and Canada for two extra days next month.

November 20

Despite the falling prices, people are still driving less. The Federal highway Administration says Americans drove about 11 billion "fewer" miles this past September than they did at the same time last year. They say that's because "more" people are out of work.

November 21

Stocks around the world hit five-year lows yesterday with Wall Street losing 700 billion dollars yesterday alone.

And from Wall Street to main street more than a million people have lost their jobs this year 4 million right now are collecting unemployment.

November 24

About 60 percent of companies have stopped hiring and almost a third have slashed their budgets for next year.

The airlines reduced their schedules and the feds easing congestion all over the country. Delays at 36 of the country's largest airports fell almost six and a half percent in the last year.

November 25

The feds move to bail out Wall Street is putting five trillion dollars of your money at risk.

GM is ending its 9-year endorsement deal with tiger woods.

Postnuptial depression may not be a clinical diagnosis, but it has entered the lexicon of marriage in the past few years, and newly hitched couples will tell you it's real.

November 26

US health officials say they've found trace amounts of melamine in a sample of baby formula.

The FDA says it found the toxic chemical in one sample of formula sold here in the states but it reiterates that there was only a trace amount, posing no risk because the levels are extremely low.

Life insurance companies are ask for a bailout.

November 27

South Carolina Special: Tax-Free Guns on Black Friday

Retail stores are reporting they'll probably extend those Black Friday specials throughout the holiday season.

The recession has made all of us bargain hunters and retailers are offering more discounts...to keep us in the stores.

The commerce department says new home sales fell last month to the lowest point in almost 18 years.

December 1

Ways to avoid germs while traveling.

An article in the Journal of Experimental Psychology says cell phone calls distract drivers causing them to follow too closely and miss exits...and using a hands-free device does not make it better.

December 2

Now it's official...we're in a recession people!

And the "National Bureau of Economic Research" says that we've been in one since last December.

Good news if you're sick of getting calls from telemarketers. A new law went into affect yesterday designed to help you hang up the phone for good!

December 3

Spending a lot of time watching TV, playing video games and surfing the Web makes children more prone to a range of health problems including obesity and smoking, U.S. researchers say. Chicago agreed to lease its parking meters to a fund managed by Morgan Stanley for more than one billion dollars over the next 75 years.

The FCC wants to auction off public airwaves... and the winning bidder would be "required" to offer "free internet"... but "without" porn! So, advocacy groups have their knickers in a twist because your right to "porn" is being taken away.

December 4

11 U.S. service members died during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan last month -- the lowest combined number since 2003.

McDonald's, Wal-Mart and even cigarette giant Phillip Morris all say they are 'recession proof' and that their sales are actually going up. Experts say it's because customers are holding off on big ticket buys but still need the essentials.

Property taxes are going up all across the country despite the biggest drop in home prices since the Great Depression. Property tax collections have gone up more than 3 percent in the third quarter.. Even though home values are down 17 percent.

December 5

A 99-day strike in Canada is causing some air traffic problems here in the U.S. Companies that make de-icing fluid were forced to shut down when Canadian mine workers, who dig for the fluid's ingredients, went on strike.

December 8

Thanks to the nation's worst auto market in 25 years, supplies of new cars are piling up around the nation.

Researchers have devised a mathematical formula for procrastinators to work out just how much chance they have of overcoming their weakness

December 9

The publisher of the Chicago Tribune and the Los Angeles Times has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Back in 2004 researchers published a report saying that the rise in obesity could be linked to the rise in the consumption of high fructose corn syrup. Five new reports posted in the "American Journal of Clinical Nutrition" say people don't gain any more weight from corn syrup than any other type of sugar.

December 10

The economic crisis is getting so bad its causing the federal and many state governments to cut emergency readiness programs which help communities respond to disease outbreaks, natural disasters and bioterrorism threats.

The National Commission on Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity says laws passed 40 years ago to end housing discrimination haven't been enforced and it says there should be a new agency watchdog to do it.

December 11

Most of us are spending less and saving more right now...and a new study out this morning says this recession 'could' change our spending habit permanently.

A state commission says that the Garden State should allow same-sex couples to marry because the current civil unions law isn't good enough.

The Death Penalty Information Center says for a third straight year the number of executions has dropped.

December 12

Doctors in St. Louis said they have successfully transplanted a full ovary from a volunteer, allowing her infertile twin sister to give birth to a healthy baby girl on November 11.

A Reuters survey conducted by America's Research Group found that 60 percent of shoppers plan to use credit cards less this year while holiday shopping.

December 13

The Federal Reserve will vote on credit card reforms that may bring some relief to customers. They will vote on possibly changing how they apply late fees and shorter payment periods.

December 15

Right now, 11 million people owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. Because of that, American homes are set to lose well over two trillion dollars in value this year alone.

December 16

Letting teens sleep a little more by starting the school day a bit later may lower their odds for car crash injury or death, a new study finds.

A new survey says 46% of women would rather give up sex for two weeks than give up the internet -- only 30 percent of men said the same thing.

December 17

Stanford University research with fruit flies reveals that the immune system fights invading bacteria the hardest at night and the least during the day.

Governor of New York proposes soda tax.

December 18

For-profit nursing homes score lower when it comes to care, saying they're more likely to provide inferior healthcare. The centers for Medicare and Medicaid services just released a new rating system giving the homes anywhere from one to five stars based on quality.

Homeowners across the country are flooding mortgage offices trying to refinance their loans.

December 19

Healthcare professionals who disagree with birth control or abortions can now simply walk away from providing that medical care.

850-billion dollars is how much president-elect Barack Obama may ask Congress to approve next year to jolt the economy.

December 22

A dad-to-be has invented a pregnancy pager that uses "two" sensors to alert him every time the baby kicks.

If the music industry finds out that you're swapping music files online, it'll send an e-mail to your ISP which will in turn forward the message to you-probably with a little "P.S." asking you to stop.

December 23

The World Health Organization predicts almost 20-million people could get cancer every year by 20-30.

Scientists have said in the past that people born during the winter months are less educated, less healthy and lower paid than people born in the spring, summer or fall--they blamed the cold weather and age cutoffs for school.

December 24

A study out of California revealed students whose schools are near fast food chains, tend to eat fewer fruits and veggies, drink more soda "and" are more likely to be obese than students at other schools!

Older adults in the U.S. are popping prescription pills, over-the-counter drugs, and dietary supplements in record numbers!

December 29

The number of people caught trying to sneak into the U.S. from Mexico has dropped to its lowest level since 1976.

An Australian scientist is doping up honey bees with cocaine.

Some news laws across the country:

In Maine, adoptive children will have full access to their original birth certificates, including their birth parents' names.

In Alaska, Illinois and Washington state convicted drunken drivers who have blown .08 or more will be required to install a breathalyzer in their cars before they can drive it.

California, Maryland, and South Carolina - will expand DNA testing with some requiring samples from people simply arrested or charged with a crime.

December 31

The International Council of Shopping Centers says this year's holiday shopping season was the worst since 1970.